UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/39
17 August 2001

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 5

PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION

Letter dated 15 August 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

I refer to the letter dated 14 August 2001 addressed to you by the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva in connection with the statement made by the Mauritius delegation on 14 August 2001 and wish to bring the following to your kind attention and for record purposes:

The Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, has always been an integral part of the territory of Mauritius. The Chagos Archipelago was unlawfully excised by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius, prior to Mauritius being granted its independence. This excision was done in violation of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and United Nations resolutions 2066 (XX), 2232 (XXI), and 2357 (XXII). Ever since, the Government of Mauritius has consistently pressed the United Kingdom Government both bilaterally and internationally for the early and unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius.

GE.01-15540 (E) 100901

Mauritius has never acquiesced in the creation of the so-called British Indian Ocean Territory, which it does not recognize or accept.

Mauritius will continue to press for the return of the Chagos Archipelago in the appropriate forums and would not accept any action which would undermine the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago.

We would appreciate if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated as an official document of the United Nations under item 5 of the Sub-Commission's agenda.

(Signed): U.D. CANABADY
Deputy Permanent Representative